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Canada

Honey

Production and Trade Update

2002

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Report Highlights: This report updates estimates of Canadian honey production and summarizes honey trade developments.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Ottawa [CA1], CA

Production and Trade

According to Statistics Canada, Canadian honey production in 2002 reached 33,297 metric tons, 6% below the year earlier revised total of 35,388 metric tons. The decline was caused, in part, by a 3% reduction in the number of colonies and lower yields, particularly across the prairie provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta which experienced a cool spring and a dry summer. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada reports that Canada is the ninth largest honey producer in the world with about 3% of world production in 2000.

Canadian Honey Production			
	# Beekeepers	# Colonies	Production (metric tons)
Average 1997-2001	9,999	574,523	36,193
2001	9,102	602,328	35,388
2002 Prelim.	8,884	585,683	33,297
Source: Statistics Canada			

Trade

Imports

Argentina became the major supplier to the Canadian honey import market in early 2002 following issues related to the detection of chemical residues found in Chinese honey (see Issues Update, below) and a resulting sharp decline in imports from China. U.S. honey exports to Canada showed strong gains in 2002 with sales up 124% in the January to September period of 2002 compared with the same period a year ago.

Canadian Honey Imports by Calendar Year						
With January to September Comparison for 2001 & 2002						
Units: metric tons						
HS 0409						
				Jan-Sept	Jan-Sept	% change
	1999	2000	2001	2001	2002	02/01
-- The World	2,859	2,826	5,210	3,838	5,659	47%
Argentina	69	117	1,054	483	3,604	646%
China	2,201	2,018	3,551	2,908	985	-66%
United States	377	391	292	223	498	124%
Vietnam	0	0	0	0	168	+100%
Australia	5	41	28	15	88	474%
All Others	208	258	286	209	315	51%
Source: World Trade Atlas						

Exports

Canadian exports of honey during the first nine months of 2002 rebounded compared to 2001 when export sales were weaker reflecting, in part, increased honey supplies in the United States, the major export destination for Canadian honey. Canadian exports to the United States have increased following U.S. countervailing duty and anti-dumping actions on honey imports from Argentina and China in 2001.

Canadian Honey Exports by Calendar Year						
With January to September Comparison for 2001 & 2002						
Units: metric tons						
HS 0409						
				Jan-Sept	Jan-Sept	% change
	1999	2000	2001	2001	2002	02/01
-- The World --	14,721	15,297	12,691	7,406	14,376	94%
United States	12,084	12,960	10,564	5,819	12,804	120%
Germany	1,666	1,352	889	658	660	0%
United Kingdom	250	264	321	174	307	77%
Japan	206	301	446	381	268	-30%
China	0	0	0	0	104	+100%
Denmark	142	121	42	0	82	+100%
Ireland	39	0	51	16	42	156%
Venezuela	0	0	39	39	22	-45%
France	122	168	144	130	20	-84%
All Others	213	131	194	189	66	-65%
Source: World Trade Atlas						

Issues Update

Chloramphenicol in Chinese Honey

In April 2002, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) issued a public warning not to consume certain food products manufactured using honey imported from China. The CFIA conducted tests on imported Chinese honey and found traces of chloramphenicol, a product that is not used in North American beekeeping and poses a potential threat to human health. The CFIA issued a recall on blended Chinese honey and products made with Chinese honey. The

CFIA also advised manufacturers to discontinue the use of honey from China. A complete list of products that have been recalled is available at:

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/corpaffr/recarapp/2002/honprode.shtml>

Live Bee Import Ban

Canada has imposed an import ban on live bees from the continental United States since 1987 under the Honeybee Importation Prohibition Regulations. Imports from Hawaii are permitted. In August 2000, the ban was extended to December 31, 2004. Bees from the continental US are not permitted into the country because of the presence in the U.S. of treatment-resistant Varroa mites and other pests that are deemed by Canada's animal health authorities to pose a danger to the health of bee colonies in Canada.

Tariffs

Canada applies no import tariffs to honey.

Honey Regulations

Quality standards, packaging and labeling requirements for honey are laid out in the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's Honey Regulations. The full text of the honey regulations is available at: <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/en/C-0.4/C.R.C.-c.287/text.html>

Container Sizes

Canadian honey regulations stipulate the following metric sizes for domestic or imported honey: any net weight up to 150 grams, 250 grams, 375 grams, 500 grams, 750 grams, 1 kg, 1.5 kg, 2kg, 3kg, and 5 kg. For bulk containers: 7 kg, 15kg, 30 kg, or any larger container where net weight is a multiple of 1 kg.

U.S. honey cannot meet Canada #1 or #2 grade if it contains foreign material that would be retained on a U.S. National Bureau of Standards 60 mesh screen. U.S. exporters marketing liquid honey containing a piece of honeycomb in the jar should note this restriction. Exports to Canada must be accompanied by an import declaration filled out by the shipper and the importer is responsible for inspection fees. Copies of the import declaration are available from the Dairy, Fruit & Vegetable Division, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, telephone (613) 225-2342.

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